Young Folk's Library of Choice Literature

Æsop's Fables



Vol. II.

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Young Folks' Library of Choice Literature.

ÆSOP'S FABLES.

VOL. II.

FIRST GRADE.

EDITED BY

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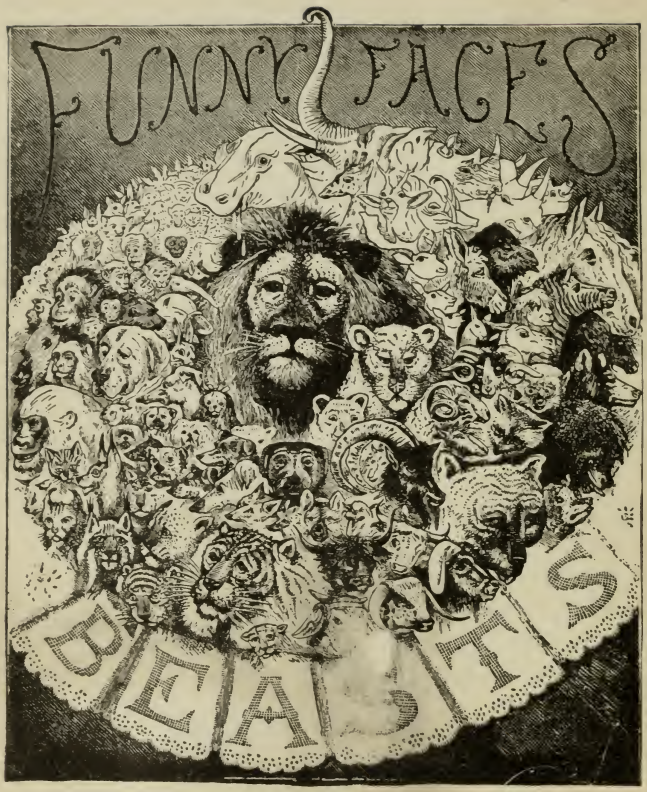
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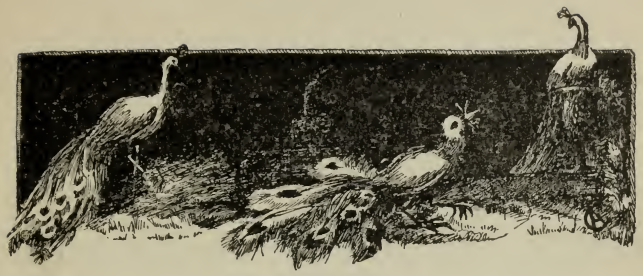
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FUNNY FACES
BEASTS



ÆSOP'S FABLES.

BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

screamed	roared	won der ful
rob in	scolded	beau ti ful
pul ling	heav y	pea cock
feath ers	bur ied	cheat
jack daw	for est	bor rowed
breast	judge	el e phant
hand som est	a shamed	home ly

BORROWED FEATHERS.

To-morrow a king of the birds is to be chosen.

And the king shall be

that bird that has the handsomest feathers.

The elephant shall come to be the judge.

"I am a very homely bird," said the jackdaw to himself; "and still I should so like to be king."

"I know what I will do. I will steal feathers from all the handsome birds and put them in among my own brown feathers. Then I

shall be as handsome as any bird in the forest."

The next day came. "Now let us all go before the elephant" said the birds, "and have our king chosen."

One by one the birds flew down before the elephant, and strutted up and down, showing their fine feathers.

By and by it was the jackdaw's turn.

Down he flew before the judge.

"What a wonderful bird you are!" cried the elephant. You have the feathers of all the beautiful birds. A tail like the peacock; a crown like the jay; a breast like the robin. Indeed, you, you are the handsomest of them all. You shall be king."

"He's a cheat! cheat! cheat! He's a cheat! a cheat! a cheat!" screamed all the birds at once.

"Those are my feathers,"

screamed the peacock, pulling out the jackdaw's borrowed tail.

"Those are my feathers," screamed the jay, pulling off the borrowed crown.

"Those are my feathers," screamed the robin, pulling out the red breast feathers.

And there the jackdaw stood—a little, plain brown bird. And O, how ashamed he was! How the elephant roared at him, and how the birds scolded him!

His wings were so heavy with shame he could not even fly; so he crept away into the forest and buried himself beneath the leaves; and there he died—died of shame.





BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

mouse	cru el	dang ling
friends	drowned	luck y
po lite ly	joke	sleep y
swim ming	hawk	string
plunged	din ner	sign
cool	pounced	please
squealed	screamed	

THE MOUSE, THE FROG, AND THE HAWK.

A mouse who had always lived on the land, made friends with a frog that had always lived in the water.

The frog went one day to see the mouse's nest.

"This is a very nice home," said the frog. "Now come with me to see my home."

"I shall be glad to," answered the mouse politely.

"Can you swim?" asked the frog.

"O dear, no!" answered the mouse.

"Never mind," said the frog. "I'll tie your foot to

my foot, and in that way I can pull you along very nicely. You'll almost think you are swimming yourself."

The frog laughed as he said this; for he knew very well that it would be sad fun for the little mouse.

Soon the two friends reached the pond in which the frog lived.

"O how nice the water is!" cried the frog as he plunged

in. "It is so cool. I should die to live on the dry hot land as you do."

"O! O! O!" squealed the little mouse, "I don't like the water. Please let me go."

"O you'll get used to it," laughed the cruel frog.

So the poor little mouse was drowned; and the cruel frog thought it all a fine joke.

"What is that I see float-

ing on the water?" said a hawk who chanced to fly over the pond.

"A dead mouse as I live!" said the hawk, coming nearer.

"Just what I want for my dinner."

So the hawk pounced upon the mouse, and flew with him high in the air.

"O stop!" screamed the frog. "Let me go! It is the mouse you want. Not me!"

"Why! who are you?" said the hawk. "How came you dangling at the end of that string? What a lucky bird I am to catch you both! Together you will make a fine dinner for me."

By and by there was in the tree top, a very fat, sleepy looking hawk. There was a bit of string in his nest; but not a sign of a frog or a mouse was there anywhere to be seen.



BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

drink ing	moth er	thous and
wa ter	creat ure	hun dred
road side	puff	doc tor
crushed	big ger	fool ish ness

THE OX AND THE FROG.

An ox was drinking water by the roadside.

He set his foot upon a little frog and crushed him.

The little brothers and sisters of the frog ran to tell their mother.

"O mother!" cried the little frogs. "A great creature came down to the pond to drink. He stepped his great foot on our baby frog and killed him."

"How big was the creature?" asked the mother; "was he as big as this?" and she began to puff herself up as big as she could.

"O bigger! a thousand times bigger!" cried the little frogs.

"As big as this?" asked the mother frog making herself a little bigger.

"O bigger!" a hundred times bigger!" cried the little frogs.

"As big as this?" asked the mother frog, making herself bigger still.

"O bigger! ten times bigger!" cried the little frogs again.

"As big as this?" gasped the mother frog, trying to make herself even bigger still.

But before the little frogs could answer, over she rolled in a fit. And before the frog doctor could be found, she was dead. A victim you see to her own foolishness in trying to be bigger than she ever was meant to be.



BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

house	free	sup pose
fat	well-fed	cer tain ly
sleek	should n't	fam i ly
chain	snarled	mas ter
shad y	half-starved	least

THE WOLF AND THE HOUSE DOG.

A wolf one day met a fat, sleek-looking house dog.

"How fat and well-fed you look!" said the wolf.

"Why should n't I look

fat and well fed?" answered the dog.

"Why should you?" snarled back the wolf; "see how thin and half-starved I look."

"That is because you are half-starved," answered the dog again.

"Then you look fat because you are well-fed, I suppose," snarled the wolf again.

"Certainly," said the dog.

"You are a lucky dog," answered the wolf.

"Why not come and live with me, then?" asked the dog. "All I have to do is to guard the house at night. In the day time I sleep or I eat. The family all pet me and feed me, and I have an easy time of it."

"So it seems," answered the wolf. "Indeed I will come and live with you."

So the dog and the wolf

trotted along together towards home.

"What is that mark upon your neck?" asked the wolf as they sat under a shady tree.

"O that is only where my chain wears off the hair of my neck?" answered the dog.

"Chain! Do you have to wear a chain?" cried the wolf.

"Why, yes; my master ties

me during the day; but at night I am free to go as I please."

"Goodbye," answered the wolf, turning to go away. "I may not be so fat and well-fed as you are; but at least I am free."





BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

wo man	greed y	gold
won der ful	fine	gold en
mon ey	fin er	luck
e nough	fin est	
neigh bors	mass	

THE GREEDY WOMAN.

A woman once had a very wonderful hen. The eggs it laid were pure gold, every one.

These she sold; and so

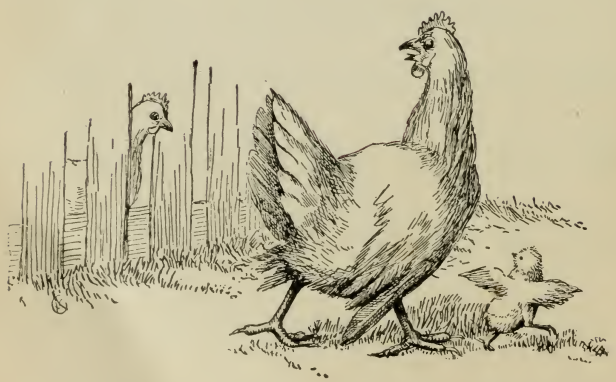
had money enough always to buy the wood for her fire, and corn for her bread.

"If I had all the gold at once, I could buy a nice new house," said the greedy woman. "Then I should be finer than the finest of all my neighbors."

So she killed the hen, and cut her open to get the mass of gold that she supposed she should find within her.

Of course she found only one little golden egg, just half grown.

But the hen was dead! And the woman sat down to cry over what she called her bad luck.





BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

travel ing	tight	nose
for est	trav el	walked
to geth er	cow ard	se cret
climbed	pre tend ed	whis pered
flat	dead	ad vice
ground	touch	dan ger
breath	bod y	

THE BEAR AND THE TRAVELERS.

Two men were traveling through the forests together.

"See, see, there's a bear!" cried one of the men. And

he climbed up a tree, leaving his friend to save himself as he could.

The man who was left threw himself flat upon the ground. He held his breath tight, and pretended to be dead.

It is said a bear will never touch a dead body. So he looked at the man on the ground, put his nose down close to him, then walked away.

"What secret was it the bear whispered in your ear?" asked the man from the tree as he climbed down.

"He gave some very good advice," answered the man on the ground. "He whispered to me these words: 'Never travel through the woods with a friend who is a coward when danger comes near.'"



BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

ba by	a live	les son
ba bies	blaz ing	learned
din ner	snap ping	pine
sup per	burned	screamed
fond	wheth er	for ests
roast	ate	heaped
ea gle	wis er	leaves
crept	bet ter	

THE EAGLE AND THE FOX.

An old eagle lived with her baby eagles in the top of a great pine tree.

One day she flew out from her nest to find food for her baby eagles.

She made great circles round and round in the sky. At last she saw a baby fox fast asleep.

Down she flew and seized him in her great claws.

"O my baby, my baby!" screamed the old mother fox when she saw what the eagle had done.

"Leave me my baby! My one little baby!"

"Not I," answered the cruel old eagle. "My babies need your baby to eat for their dinner. We are very fond of raw fox."

The poor mother fox ran up and down the forests wild with grief.

Meantime the baby eagles ate up the baby fox.

"I will be even with you," snarled the old fox.

So she heaped dried leaves all around the foot of the pine tree, and, when the eagle was asleep, set the leaves on fire.

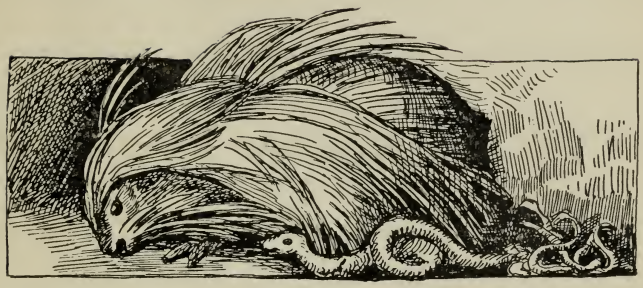
"O my babies! my babies!" screamed the eagle. "Leave me my babies! My five little babies!"

"Not I," answered the fox. "My babies need your babies to eat for their supper. We are very fond of roast eagle."

On crept the fire, blazing and snapping, up to the very top of the tree; and down came the poor little baby eagles, burned alive.

Whether the fox ate the eagles, I do not know.

But one thing is sure: the old eagle flew off a wiser, and we will hope, a better bird, for the lesson it had learned.



BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

prick ly	found	quills
por cu pine	snakes	squeaked
wan der ing	pleas ure	hissed
for ests	warm est	nee dles
cave	sharp	vis it or

THE PORCUPINE.

A prickly porcupine was wandering through the forests, looking for a home.

In a nice warm cave he found a nest of snakes.

"What a nice home you have!" said the porcupine, looking in at their door.

"Yes, indeed," answered the snakes, "will you not come in and dine with us?"

"With pleasure," answered the porcupine.

And in he went. The snakes made room for him, and gave him the very warmest place in their nest.

By and by he began to push out his sharp quills.

"O! O!" squeaked the little snakes.

"Ss! Ss!" hissed the larger snakes.

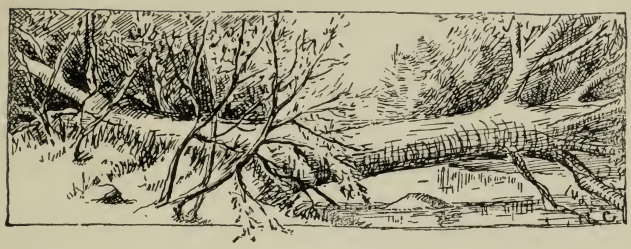
"If you do not like my needles," said the porcupine coolly, "you can get out of the cave. I like here and shall make this my home."

"O! O!" squeaked the little snakes, as the porcupine

made his quills stick out longer than ever.

"Ss! Ss!" hissed the larger snakes; and out they had to go, leaving the cave to their porcupine visitor.





BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

boast ed	stub born
dread ful	neigh bor

THE OAK AND THE WILLOW.

On the bank of a great river stood a tall oak tree.

"How tall and straight I am!" boasted the oak. "How strong! I'd like to see anything that could make me bend!"

"Would you?" said the wind, as he heard the words of the boasting oak. "We will see."

So the wind called up a great storm. The clouds were black. The rain fell. And the wind, how it did blow!

Down went the great oak with a crash. There it lay flat upon the ground.

"O little willow twig," said the oak, as he saw his

little neighbor standing near by, "tell me how a little twig like you lived through this dreadful storm."

"O," answered the little twig, "I am not so stubborn as you are. When the wind came, I just bent my head and let him pass over."

The great oak looked puzzled, and said nothing.

Thought the little twig: "Strange a big tree like that should not be more wise."



BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

thieves	thought	wood man
trav el ing	dan ger	com pan ion

THE TWO TRAVELERS.

As two men were traveling through a wood, one of them took up an axe which he saw lying upon the ground. "Look here," said

he to his companion, "I have found an axe."

"Don't say I have found it," said the other, "but *we*. As we are companions, we ought to share it between us."

"No," said the first, "I found the axe. It is mine."

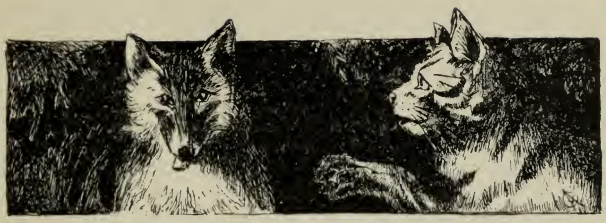
They had not gone far when they heard the owner of the axe calling out to them.

"Thieves! thieves!" cried

the angry woodman. "Bring back my axe! Bring back my axe!"

"We are in for it now," said he who had the axe.

"Nay," said the other; "say I am in for it, not we. When you thought you had a prize, you would not let me share it with you, and now you are in danger I do not care to share that with you."



BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

to geth er	en e my	es cape
some times	sec ond	purred
a fraid	hun dred	pit y
boast ing ly	tricks	

THE CAT AND THE FOX.

A cat and a fox were walking along together.

"Are you not sometimes afraid, Mr. Fox?" asked the cat.

"O no indeed," answered Mr. Fox, boastingly. "Why, if an enemy should come upon me, I have a hundred tricks by which I could escape."

"How very fine," purred the cat. "Now I have only one trick. If I could not get up a tree, I should be lost."

"What a pity!" said the fox. Now I could —"

But just then a pack of

hounds sprang out upon them. In a second the cat had gone up a tree. But the fox with his hundred tricks was seized by the hounds and killed.





BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

hare	ears	an i mal
hound	din ner	per haps
prick ing	swift	dif fer ence

THE HARE AND THE HOUND.

"There goes a hare!" said a hound, pricking up his ears. "I will catch him and eat him for my dinner."

So away he ran after the

hare. Now the hare is a very swift little animal, swifter even than a hound. He led the hound a fine race across the fields. At last the dog, all out of breath, gave up, and lay down to rest.

"Ha, ha!" laughed the dog's master. So the little hare can out-run a big dog like you?"

"Ah, but you do not see," answered the dog. The

little hare was running for his life. I was only running for my dinner."

"Perhaps that does make a difference," said the master.





BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

goats	cliffs	scowled
nar row	moun tain	fight
bridge	mid dle	an gry
a mong	ques tion	

THE TWO GOATS.

Two goats started to cross a narrow bridge high up among the cliffs of the mountains.

They met just in the middle of the bridge.

"What are you here for?" asked one goat.

"What are you here for?" asked the other goat.

"Answer my question," snapped the first goat.

"Answer my question," snapped the second goat.

Then they stood and scowled at each other.

"How am I to get past you?" began the first goat again.

"How am I to get past

you?" answered the second goat.

"I don't care, I shall not go back for you."

"Neither shall I go back for you."

"You shall!"

"I sha'n't!"

"We'll see!"

"We will see!"

Then the two angry goats ran at each other; and in their fight, both fell from the narrow bridge and were killed on the rocks below.



BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

broth er	mag pies	es caped
be lieve	sneered	luck y
tail less	proud	peo ple
slunk	lis ten	out right
part ly	car ry	un happy
be cause	a round	brush
	chat tered	

THE TAILLESS FOX.

A fox had lost his tail in a trap. As he escaped from the trap he said to himself, "Lucky indeed am I to es-

cape even with the loss of my tail."

But as he went back to his people, they all began to laugh at him. The old foxes smiled and winked wisely at each other; the little foxes laughed outright.

Every day some clever fox would make a sly joke over the unhappy tailless fox, at which the other foxes would laugh till the tears rolled down their faces.

"This will never do," thought the fox to himself. "I must win these foxes over to my side."

So he called a meeting of all the foxes of the forest.

"Dear sister and brother foxes," said he, jumping up upon a log to speak.

"I wish to say a few words to you about these brush-like tails that we have carried with us ever since the first fox was born."

"We hear!" laughed the foxes, whisking their brushes high in the air.

"Do not laugh," said the tailless fox, "but listen to me. I was as proud of my tail as you are. But of what use was it? It was of no use. It was only a bother to carry it around. So I cut it off to be rid of it. Now I can run so fast — !"

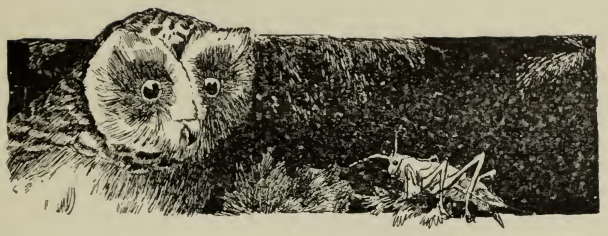
"Whish! whish!" went the tails of all the foxes.

"Cut it off, did you?" sneered the old foxes.

"Cut it off, did you?" laughed the little foxes.

"Cut it off, did you?" chattered the magpies up in the trees.

And the tailless fox slunk off into the forest. By and by he died for very shame, partly because he had no tail, and partly because his brother foxes would not believe his lies.



BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

swal lowed	feast	la zy
picked	doz ing	sup pose
beak	trunk	mer ry
owl	hol low	fel low
grass hop per	chirped	in stant

THE OWL AND THE GRASSHOPPER.

An owl sat dozing in the trunk of a hollow tree.

A grasshopper in the field kept chirping and singing the whole afternoon long.

"Do keep still," snapped the owl, "and let me sleep."

"Night is the time to sleep, you lazy old owl," chirped the grasshopper.

"Well I suppose you are right," drawled out the owl. "And, after all, you are a merry little fellow. Hop up here into the tree and pay me a visit. I have some fine honey here, and we will have a feast."

Up hopped the foolish

grasshopper into the tree. But where was the feast? I'm sure, I don't know, unless it was the grasshopper himself. For in an instant the wise old owl picked him up in his ugly beak and swallowed him.





BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

short-lived	a mong	wool ly
shep herd	wick ed	rath er
min ute	be ware	dis tance
be hav ior	wrong	sus pect ed
some thing	close ly	warn ing

THE WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING.

A wolf once found a sheep's skin. "I will dress myself in that skin," said

he, "and get into the sheep-fold."

For a time he had the very best fun. Every day he killed a lamb and ate it for his dinner.

But his fun was very short-lived.

Soon the shepherd came. It took him only a minute to see that one of the sheep was very strange in his behavior.

"Something is wrong

here," said the shepherd. So he watched very closely.

"Ah yes," said he; "I see. Here is a wolf dressed in the wooly skin of a sheep."

"Come here," said the shepherd kindly; and at his voice the sheep came running to their master. The wolf came too; but he would much rather have kept a little distance away.

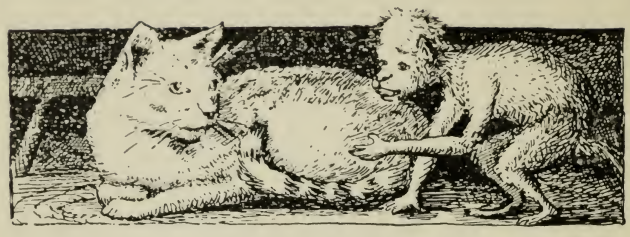
The shepherd walked in and out among the sheep,

talking to them all the time.

The old wolf never suspected what he was about.

At last he seized the wolf and tied him to a tree. There he hung until he was dead; his wicked face looking out from the sheepskin as a warning to all.

"Beware, beware," said the good shepherd to his flock. "Beware of a wolf in sheep's clothing."



BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

thoughts	turn ing	fam i ly
an gry	be hold	mis chief
in deed	eat en	kitch en
should	trusted	plan ning
laughed	thief	pan try
mon key	whis pered	spied
roast ing	seize	chest nuts
quick ly	nice ly	ashes
floor	eas i ly	a wake
roll ing	flat tered	grinned

THE CAT AND THE MONKEY.

A cat and a monkey lived in the same family. "It is

hard to tell which of them is the biggest thief," their master would often say.

"What mischief one can not think of, the other can," the cook would say.

One day they were both in the kitchen planning to steal into the pantry as soon as ever the cook's back should be turned.

But the cook was quite as wise as they were, and there

seemed little hopes of getting into the pantry.

As they sat waiting, the monkey spied some chestnuts roasting in the hot ashes.

"Cat, wake up," whispered the monkey. "We need not go without a dinner after all. See these chestnuts roasting in the ashes."

"But how will we get them?" said the cat only half awake.

"As easily as can be," answered the monkey. Just put your paw into the ashes, seize one quickly, and pull it out on the floor."

"There! you did that nicely," grinned the monkey, as the first chestnut came rolling out.

"You have such graceful paws," grinned the monkey again, as the second chestnut came rolling out.

"I wish I could use my

paws as easily as you do yours," grinned the monkey again, as the third chestnut came rolling out.

So, flattered by the monkey, the cat kept on till all the chestnuts had come rolling out.

"Now let us eat them," said the cat turning away from the fire.

But, behold! every chestnut was gone. The monkey had eaten them all.

"Spit! spit!" said the angry cat. "I might have known better than to have trusted a thief."

"Indeed, you should," laughed the monkey. And away he ran, leaving the cat to her own angry thoughts.





BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

o ver slept	win dow	an oth er
work	mid night	sor ry
cham ber	crow ing	roost er
farm er	hate ful	

THE TWO LAZY BOYS.

There was once a farmer so very fond of work that he would arise every morning when the cock-a-doodles began to crow.

Now this farmer, like many a person too fond of work, wanted everybody else in the house to work too.

His two little sons were as fond of sleep as their father was of work.

"If it were not for those cock-a-doodles," said one of the boys, "our father would not know the time to get up. They always begin their

crowing just before day-break."

"Let's kill the hateful things," said the other boy.

"Agreed. Let's kill them this very night after they have gone to roost.

So when the cock-a-doodles were well settled for the night, the two boys stole into the barn.

"You will never crow again old rooster." Said one

boy, as he seized the bird by the neck.

"Indeed, you will not wake us another morning." Said the other boy, seizing the legs of the second rooster.

"You 'll be sorry; you 'll be sorry," screamed the cock-a-doodles.

"We 'll be glad; we 'll be glad," answered the boys; and off went the heads of the two birds.

"Now for a good long sleep," said the boys, as they tumbled into their beds for the night.

But alas for the boys. When the father found that the cock-a-doodles had been killed, he could not sleep at all for fear he should oversleep.

It was only midnight, when up the farmer rose from his bed and looked out of his window.

"It may be nearly day-break," said he.

So he went to the chamber where his sons slept, and cried, "Come, lazy boys, let us go to work. The cock-a-doodles have been killed. Very likely we have over-slept without them to call us. Come, come; up, up, and to work."





BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

shad ow	quar rel	trav el er
bag gage	don key	sand y
plain	driv er	noon-time
	tired	

THE DONKEY AND THE SHADOW.

A traveler once hired a donkey to carry a pack for him.

The way lay across a sandy plain; and at noon-

time the sun grew very hot.

"Let us sit down to rest," said the traveler to the driver; "I am tired out."

So they stopped the donkey, and the traveler sat down in its shadow to rest.

"Get up," cried the driver, "I will sit there myself. You did not hire the shadow when you hired the donkey."

"But it is mine," cried the traveler. "The shadow goes always with the donkey."

"But you did not hire it," still screamed the driver. "If you want it you must pay for it, as well as for the donkey."

"What fools they are!" thought the donkey. "While they are quarrelling, I will go and find a cool place for myself."

So away he went; and when the two men were through with their quarrel, they had a good run across

the hot plain to catch the donkey, who had marched off, shadow and all.



BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

Dol ly	chick ens	al read y
milk maid	doub led	hatched
mis tress	vil lage	chick a dee dee
tripped	jack et	chirped
mon ey	rib bons	smart
	en vy	

THE MILK MAID.

Dolly was a milk maid. Because she was a good milk maid, her mistress had given her a pail of milk all for her own.

Dolly put the pail upon her head and tripped down the lane.

"I will sell this milk," said Dolly. And with the money I shall buy some eggs. I will set one of the mistress's hens upon the eggs, and by and by I shall have some fine chickens. Then I will sell the chickens when they are grown; and very likely shall get my money doubled."

"Then I will buy that fine jacket I saw in the village a few days ago, and a hat, and some fine ribbons."

"How smart I shall look! How the other milk maids will envy me!"

But just then she gave her head a toss, thinking that already she had her fine new jacket and hat and ribbons.

Down went the pail, and the milk was spilled upon the ground.

Poor little milk maid! That one toss of her head, and all the milk was lost that was to have bought the eggs, that were to have hatched the chickens, that were to have bought the fine jacket, hat and ribbons.

"Don't count your chickens before they are hatched," chirped a little bird up in the tree. "Chickadeedee! Chickadeedee!"



BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

screamed	fin gers	for est
fair y	trav el er	warmth
wiz ard	roast ed	dwelt
mouth	frozen	por ridge

THE FAIRY AND THE TRAVELER.

A fairy once came across a traveler in the woods. The traveler was half-starved and half-frozen.

"Come home with me,"

said the good fairy. "I will give you warmth and food."

On their way through the forest, the traveler kept blowing upon his hands.

"Why do you do that?" asked the fairy.

"To warm my hands," answered the traveler. "They are half-frozen."

Soon they reached the cave where the fairy dwelt. A great dish of steaming

hot porridge was brought out for the traveler to eat.

So hungry was he that he seized the hot dish with both hands.

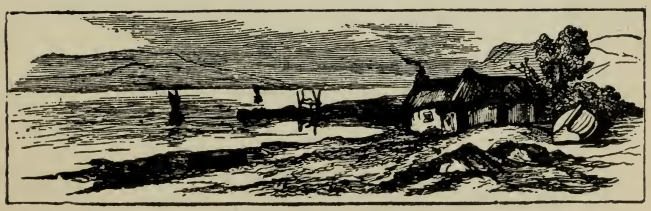
But he dropped it quite as quickly as he had taken it up; for it had burned his fingers.

How he hopped about the cave, and how he blew upon his hands!

"Why do you do that?" asked the fairy.

"To cool my hands," answered the traveler. "They are half roasted."

"Out of this cave! Out, Out!" screamed the fairy. "You are a wizard. None but a wizard could blow both cold and hot out of the same mouth."





BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

vine	grew	nar row
pine	frost	need les
sprang	branches	strong er
warm	strange	tall er
	al read y	

THE VINE AND THE PINE TREE.

A vine once sprang up at the foot of a pine tree.

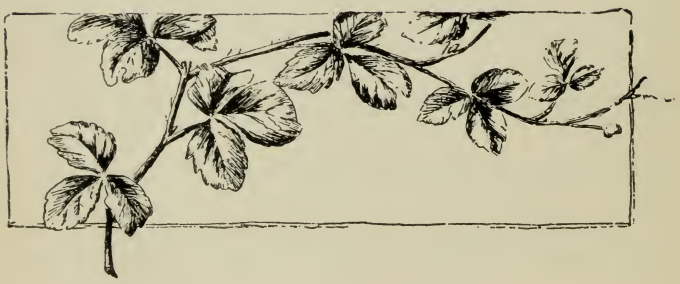
The sun was warm, and very soon the vine grew and grew until it reached

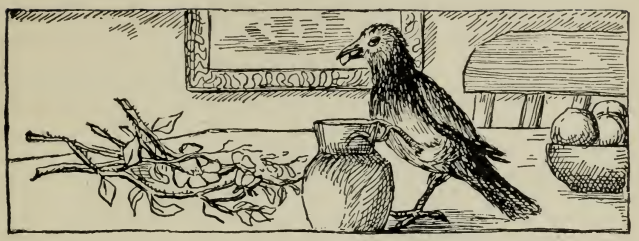
even to the branches of the pine.

"How strange it is," said the vine, "that you grow so slowly. You have been growing for years; and still I am already nearly as tall as you. And see your little narrow needles. My leaves are broader by far than they are."

"Very true," answered the pine tree, but wait until the first frost comes; then

see which of us is the taller and has the stronger leaves."





BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

reach	vase	blink ing
work	e nough	peb bles
wits	sev er al	bot tom
thirst y	min utes	wa ter
	wink ing	

THE THIRSTY CROW.

"O, I am so thirsty," cried an old black crow.

"Ah, there is a vase of water. Now I will have a drink."

So down flew the crow to the vase. There was water in the vase, sure enough. But there was so very little.

In went the crow's bill as far as he could reach. But the water was so low he could not reach it, try as hard as he might.

"I must have that water," said he to himself, sitting down to think it over.

Now a crow is a very wise

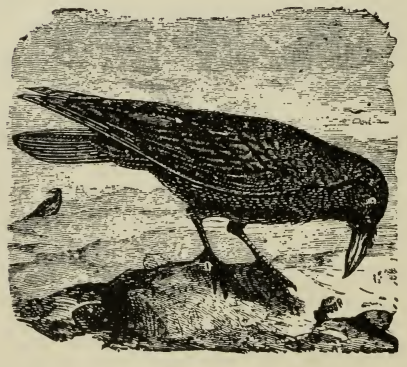
bird. A crow knows how to think.

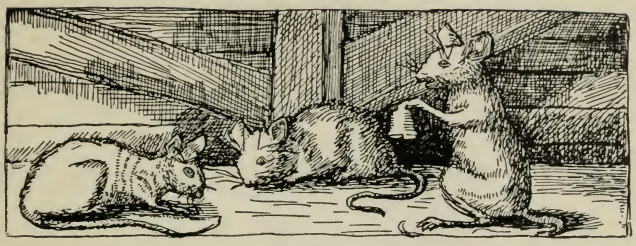
For several minutes this crow sat winking and blinking at the vase.

"I see," said he at last. "I will drop these pebbles into the vase. They will sink to the bottom, and that will make the water rise in the vase so that I can reach it."

So with a caw, caw, caw, the wise old crow went to work.

"Where there's a will, there's a way," said the crow to himself. "And who says a crow does not know how to use his wits? Caw, caw, caw, caw."





BLCAK-BOARD WORDS.

White-whisk er	crept	prowl
Grey-ear	squeaked	hor rid
Brown-back	ket tle	squeal
blind	winked	fright en
deaf	blinked	an swer

THE MICE AND THE CAT.

"If it were not for that horrid cat," said Brown-back.

"We can't get one mouth-

ful to eat," squeaked Grey-ear.

"And she creeps along so still," cried White-whisker.

"Let's run at her and bite her," said Brown-back.

"Let's jump upon her back," squeaked Grey-ear.

"Let's all squeal as loud as we can squeal," cried White-whisker.

"We could not frighten her; she is so bold," said Brown-back again. "But I

have a plan. Let's hang a bell around her neck. Then we can hear her if she comes near.

"O yes," O yes," squeaked Grey-ear.

"O yes, O yes," cried White-whisker.

"Now who will tie the bell to the cat's neck?" asked Brown-back.

No one answered.

"I would," said White-

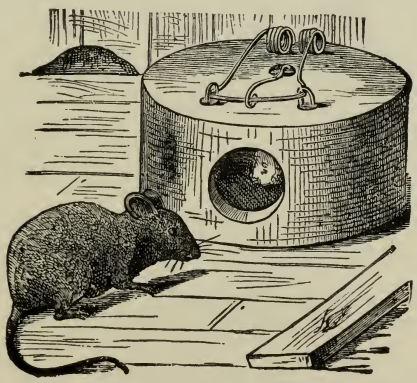
whisker; "but I am blind in one eye, you know."

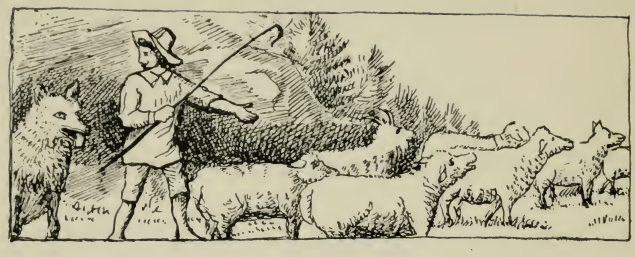
"I would said Grey-ear; "but I have gone lame ever since I was caught in the trap, you know."

"Well, I can't," squealed Brown-back, "for I have been deaf ever since the cook let fall that kettle upon my head."

Then the three mice winked and blinked at each other, until at last, one by

one, they crept away to their nests; and the cat was as free as ever to prowl about by night and by day looking for little mice to eat.





BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

shep herd	watch	nat ure
tame	farm er	trust
of ten	sure	mas ter

THE WOLF AND THE SHEPHERD.

A shepherd had a tame wolf. Often he took the wolf with him to the field to watch the sheep.

"He is as good as a shepherd dog," said the shepherd.

"Don't be too sure," said another shepherd. "It is his nature to steal sheep."

"But he seems so tame," said the first shepherd.

"Don't trust him too far," answered the second shepherd.

"We'll see," said the wolf to himself. "Just give me a chance."

One day the shepherd wanted very much to go to the town near by. "Can I

trust you to watch the sheep alone?" asked he of the wolf.

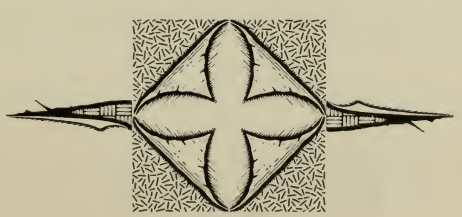
"O yes, good master," answered the wolf. "Have I not watched them day after day with you? And have I not often driven off other wolves that came to steal?"

"Indeed you have," answered the shepherd. "You shall watch them to-day alone."

And the wolf — what do

you suppose he did? Why ate two of the sheep as soon as ever his master was out of sight.

Then all too late the shepherd said, "What a fool I was; I might have known better. A wolf is a wolf; give him but half a chance, and he will prove it every time."





BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

doc tor	fault	hoarse
heal	an i mals	croup
man ner	breathe	plunged
dis ease	wrink led	

THE FROG DOCTOR.

"I am a great doctor," said the frog.

"I can heal all manner of diseases. It is your own fault now if any of you ani-

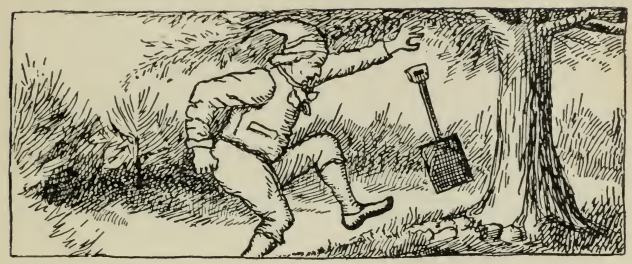
mals are ill; for I, the great doctor, have come to live in this pond in this forest, and am able to heal you all."

"Indeed," sneered an old fox. "If that is so, pray begin on yourself. You are so fat you can hardly breathe. You can not walk straight to save your life. Your skin is all brown and wrinkled. And your voice is as hoarse as if you

had the croup every night of your life."

Then the frog plunged into the water out of sight; and never again showed his head in the daytime.





BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

mi ser	ad mire	dif fer ence
bur ied	earth	wheth er
lump	stol en	ev er y

THE OLD MISER.

An old miser had buried a lump of gold at the foot of a tall pine tree.

Every day he would come to the tree, dig up t' e gold,

admire it, and put it back again in the earth.

One day he found the gold gone.

"O, some one has stolen my gold!" some one has stolen my gold!" cried the miser.

"Why do you cry?" asked the tall pine tree. "You never made any use of it when you had it. What difference does it make to you whether it is in the hole or not?"



BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

mov ing	e nough	nurse
en tered	fool ish	scald
for est	sup per	beat
growled	prowl ing	trick

THE NURSE AND THE WOLF.

A wolf was prowling about, looking for something to eat.

In a house a little child was crying.

"Keep still; stop your crying," said the nurse, "or I will throw you out to the wolf."

"Ah," said the wolf as he heard these words, "now I am sure of my supper." So down he sat beneath the window, waiting for the child to be thrown down to him.

By and by the child stopped crying. "There's a dear, good baby!" said the

nurse. "If the old wolf comes we'll beat him and scald him."

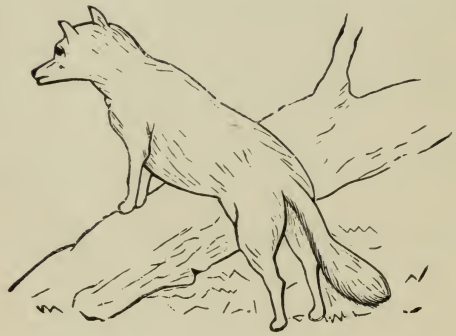
"O, that's your trick, is it?" said the wolf. "I think I'll be moving on."

As he entered the forest he met a fox.

"Why do you look so cross?" asked the fox.

"Cross!" growled the wolf; "Indeed I am cross. I've been fool enough to believe what I heard. Don't

you ever be so foolish, my friend. If you are, you will be sure to lose your supper."





BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

truth	screamed	hill side
an oth er	noth ing	dan ger
fool ish	snarled	farm er
heav y	jump ing	fright en
scold ing	seiz ing	bus y
hard ly	throat	an gry

THE SHEPHERD BOY.

A boy was sent out upon the hillside to watch the sheep.

"Should any danger come

to you," said the farmer, "shout, 'Wolf, wolf!' I shall be at work with my men near by; and when we hear you we will run to help you."

"What fun it will be to frighten these farmers," thought the boy.

So, by and by, when they were all busy at work, the boy cried loudly, "Wolf, wolf!"

The men came running to

help him. When they found it was only a joke upon them, they laughed, and went back to their work.

A few hours later, again the boy cried, "Wolf, wolf!"

Again the men came running to help him. This time they were angry, and went back to their work scolding among themselves.

Hardly were they back in their field, before there

came, in truth, a wolf out from the woods. Slowly he crept towards the sheep, and was close upon them before the boy saw him.

"Wolf! wolf! wolf! wolf!" screamed the boy.

"The fool!" said the men. "Does he think we have nothing to do but to run at his call of "wolf, wolf?" And they went on with their work.

"Wolf, wolf!" screamed

the boy again. "Keep still," snarled the wolf, jumping upon the boy and seizing him by the throat.

"He stopped his noise when he found we would not come," said the men.

But when night came, and they went to drive home the sheep, they found the boy dead upon the hill-side and three nice, fat sheep dead beside him.

"There was a wolf in truth," cried one man.

"Alas, how could we know?" cried another.

"'Twas a foolish joke he played upon us," cried another.

"He has paid a heavy price for it," said another.



BLACK-BOARD WORDS.

peo ple	la zy	doesn't
trav el	group	trudg ing
please	road side	stu pid
health y	load ed	

THE MAN AND HIS HORSE.

A farmer set out one morning with his little son to go to the town to buy some meal.

"See those stupid people

walking in the hot sun; and that great horse with nothing to do. Why doesn't one of them ride?" said some men by the roadside.

"Quite right, quite right," said the farmer to himself. So he placed his son upon the horse's back.

"See that great, strong boy on horseback, and his poor old father trudging along in the dust," said

another group of men by the roadside.

"Quite right, quite right," said the farmer to himself. So he took the boy from the horse's back, and took the place himself.

"See that great strong man on horseback and his little boy trudging along under this hot sun. Why doesn't the man take the child up with him?" said

another group of men by the roadside.

"Quite right, quite right," said the farmer to himself. So he lifted the boy to a seat beside him.

"Do you see that poor old horse loaded down with that great lazy man and that great healthy boy?" said another group of men by the roadside.

"There, there, let us go back home my boy," said

the farmer. "When we try to please everybody we please nobody. To-morrow we will set forth again. We will travel as seems to us right. Then let people say what they will."



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